

Appln. No. 10/719,241  
Amendment dated April 25, 2005  
Reply to Office Action mailed January 25, 2005

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims (deleted text being struck through and added text being underlined):

1. (Currently Amended) A pipe heating apparatus for use in heating PVC pipe and conduit for bending, the apparatus comprising:

a housing having a lower portion and an upper portion, said lower portion having an bottom wall for resting upon a horizontal support surface, said lower portion having a lower perimeter wall extending upwardly from said bottom wall, said upper portion having an top wall and a upper perimeter wall extending downwardly from said top wall, said lower perimeter wall and said upper perimeter wall having the same form and size, said upper portion being positionable to rest upon said lower portion whereby an edge of said upper perimeter wall abuts an edge of said lower perimeter wall, said housing defining an interior space for receiving a portion of a pvc pipe;

an aperture positioned within said housing for selectively receiving a heat source; and

an upper heat deflector assembly being positioned in said upper portion of said housing, said upper heat deflector assembly having a first portion positioned at an angle to said top wall, said upper heat deflector assembly having a second portion positioned at an angle to said top wall, said first and second portions facilitating heat flow away from said top wall and into said interior space.

2. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said aperture is positioned through said lower perimeter wall.

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3. (Original) The apparatus of claim 2, wherein said aperture having a diameter of approximately  $\frac{3}{4}$  of an inch for selectively receiving a portable torch as a source of heat for heating the portion of pvc pipe received in said interior space.

4. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said aperture is positioned through said top wall.

5. (Original) The apparatus of claim 4, wherein said aperture having a diameter of approximately two inches for selectively receiving a nozzle of a heat gun as a source of heat for heating the portion of pvc pipe received in said interior space.

6. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:  
said aperture is positioned through said lower perimeter wall, said aperture having a diameter of approximately  $\frac{3}{4}$  of an inch for selectively receiving a portable torch as a source of heat for heating the portion of pvc pipe received in said interior space; and

a top aperture being positioned through said top wall, said top aperture having a diameter of approximately two inches for selectively receiving a nozzle of a heat gun as a source of heat for heating the portion of pvc pipe received in said interior space.

7. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said upper portion being hingably coupled to said lower portion to facilitate insertion and removal of the portion of pvc pipe received in said interior portion.

8. (Currently Amended) A pipe heating apparatus for use in heating PVC pipe and conduit for bending, the apparatus comprising:

a housing having a lower portion and an upper portion, said lower portion having an bottom wall for resting upon a horizontal support surface,

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said lower portion having a lower perimeter wall extending upwardly from said bottom wall, said upper portion having an top wall and a upper perimeter wall extending downwardly from said top wall, said lower perimeter wall and said upper perimeter wall having the same form and size, said upper portion being positionable to rest upon said lower portion whereby an edge of said upper perimeter wall abuts an edge of said lower perimeter wall, said housing defining an interior space for receiving a portion of a pvc pipe;

an aperture positioned within said housing for selectively receiving a heat source, said aperture is positioned through said lower perimeter wall, said aperture having a diameter of approximately  $\frac{3}{4}$  of an inch for selectively receiving a portable torch as a source of heat for heating the portion of pvc pipe received in said interior space;

a top aperture being positioned through said top wall, said top aperture having a diameter of approximately two inches for selectively receiving a nozzle of a heat gun as a source of heat for heating the portion of pvc pipe received in said interior space; ~~and~~

said upper portion being hingably coupled to said lower portion to facilitate insertion and removal of the portion of pvc pipe received in said interior portion; and

an upper heat deflector assembly, said upper heat deflector assembly having a first portion positioned adjacent a first side of said top aperture, said upper heat deflector assembly having a second portion positioned adjacent a second side of said top aperture, said first and second portions facilitating heat flow away from said top aperture into said interior space.

9. (Original) The apparatus of claim 8, further comprising:

a first notch positioned along a medial portion of a lower edge of a first side of said upper perimeter wall;

a second notch positioned along a medial portion of an upped edge of a first side of said lower perimeter wall, said second notch being aligned

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with said first notch when said upper portion is positioned on top of said lower portion;

a third notch positioned along a medial portion of a lower edge of a second side of said upper perimeter wall;

a fourth notch positioned along a medial portion of an upper edge of a second side of said lower perimeter wall, said fourth notch being aligned with said third notch when said upper portion is positioned on top of said lower portion;

said first, second, third, and fourth notches facilitating positioning a portion of pvc pipe within said interior space when the pvc pipe has a length greater than a length of said housing.

10. (Original) The apparatus of claim 9, wherein said first and second notches form an opening having a diameter of approximately one and one half inches when said first and second notches are aligned; and said third and fourth notches form an opening having a diameter of approximately one and one half inches when said third and fourth notches are aligned.

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim ~~11~~ 8, further comprising:

wherein said first and second portions of said upper heat deflector assembly each having a longitudinal axis, said first and second portions being positioned such that said longitudinal axis has a perpendicular relationship with a longitudinal axis of said upper portion of said housing; and

wherein said first and second portions of said upper heat deflector assembly being positioned such that said first and second portions angle downwardly into said interior space as they extend away from said top aperture.

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13. (Original) The apparatus of claim 8, further comprising a lower heat deflector assembly positioned within said lower portion above said aperture, said lower heat assembly extending along a length of said lower portion, said lower deflector assembly facilitating heat flow away from said aperture within said interior space.

14. (Original) The apparatus of claim 13, further comprising:  
wherein said lower heat deflector assembly further comprises a first extent, a second extent, and a third extent;  
said first extent being positioned along a third side of said lower portion, said first extent extending along a length of said lower portion;  
said second extent being operationally coupled to said first extent, said second extent extending along a length of said lower portion, said second extent having a top surface defining a plane said second extent being positioned such that said plane has a spaced substantially parallel relationship with a plane defined by said bottom wall; and  
said third extent being operationally coupled to said second extent, said third extent extending along a length of said lower portion, said third extent being positioned adjacent to a fourth side of said lower portion opposite said third side of said lower portion;  
said first, second, and third extent extending along a width of said lower portion.

15. (Original) The apparatus of claim 14, wherein said first extent has an angular relationship to said second extent such that said first extent extends upwardly as said first extent extends away from said second extent, and said third extent has an angular relationship to said second extent such that said third extent extends upwardly as said third extent extends away from said second extent.

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16. (Original) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein said lower heat deflector apparatus further comprises a plurality of apertures dispersed in an array along a length and width of said lower heat deflector apparatus to facilitate heat transfer from the portable torch when positioned in said aperture.

17. (Cancelled)

**New Claims:**

18. (New) The apparatus of claim 8, further comprising:

a first notch positioned along a medial portion of a lower edge of a first side of said upper perimeter wall;

a second notch positioned along a medial portion of an upper edge of a first side of said lower perimeter wall, said second notch being aligned with said first notch when said upper portion is positioned on top of said lower portion;

a third notch positioned along a medial portion of a lower edge of a second side of said upper perimeter wall;

a fourth notch positioned along a medial portion of an upper edge of a second side of said lower perimeter wall, said fourth notch being aligned with said third notch when said upper portion is positioned on top of said lower portion;

said first, second, third, and fourth notches facilitating positioning a portion of pvc pipe within said interior space when the pvc pipe has a length greater than a length of said housing;

wherein said first and second notches form an opening having a diameter of approximately one and one half inches when said first and second notches are aligned; and said third and fourth notches form an opening having a diameter of approximately one and one half inches when said third and fourth notches are aligned;

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wherein said first and second portions of said upper heat deflector assembly each having a longitudinal axis, said first and second portions being positioned such that said longitudinal axis has a perpendicular relationship with a longitudinal axis of said upper portion of said housing;

wherein said first and second portions of said upper heat deflector assembly being positioned such that said first and second portions angle downwardly into said interior space as they extend away from said top aperture;

a lower heat deflector assembly positioned within said lower portion above said aperture, said lower heat assembly extending along a length of said lower portion, said lower deflector assembly facilitating heat flow away from said aperture within said interior space;

wherein said lower heat deflector assembly further comprises a first extent, a second extent, and a third extent, said first extent being positioned along a third side of said lower portion, said first extent extending along a length of said lower portion, said second extent being operationally coupled to said first extent, said second extent extending along a length of said lower portion, said second extent having a top surface defining a plane said second extent being positioned such that said plane has a spaced substantially parallel relationship with a plane defined by said bottom wall, said third extent being operationally coupled to said second extent, said third extent extending along a length of said lower portion, said third extent being positioned adjacent to a fourth side of said lower portion opposite said third side of said lower portion;

said first, second, and third extent extending along a width of said lower portion;

wherein said first extent has an angular relationship to said second extent such that said first extent extends upwardly as said first extent extends away from said second extent, and said third extent has an angular relationship to said second extent such that said third extent extends upwardly as said third extent extends away from said second extent; and

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wherein said lower heat deflector apparatus further comprises a plurality of apertures dispersed in an array along a length and width of said lower heat deflector apparatus to facilitate heat transfer from the portable torch when positioned in said aperture.

19. (New) A pipe heating apparatus for use in heating PVC pipe and conduit for bending, the apparatus comprising:

a housing having a lower portion and an upper portion, said lower portion having an bottom wall for resting upon a horizontal support surface, said lower portion having a lower perimeter wall extending upwardly from said bottom wall, said upper portion having an top wall and a upper perimeter wall extending downwardly from said top wall, said lower perimeter wall and said upper perimeter wall having the same form and size, said upper portion being positionable to rest upon said lower portion whereby an edge of said upper perimeter wall abuts an edge of said lower perimeter wall, said housing defining an interior space for receiving a portion of a pvc pipe;

an aperture positioned within said housing for selectively receiving a heat source, said aperture is positioned through said lower perimeter wall, said aperture having a diameter of approximately  $\frac{3}{4}$  of an inch for selectively receiving a portable torch as a source of heat for heating the portion of pvc pipe received in said interior space;

a top aperture being positioned through said top wall, said top aperture having a diameter of approximately two inches for selectively receiving a nozzle of a heat gun as a source of heat for heating the portion of pvc pipe received in said interior space;

said upper portion being hingably coupled to said lower portion to facilitate insertion and removal of the portion of pvc pipe received in said interior portion;

a lower heat deflector assembly positioned within said lower portion above said aperture, said lower heat assembly extending along a length of



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said lower portion, said lower deflector assembly facilitating heat flow away from said aperture within said interior space; and

wherein said lower heat deflector apparatus further comprises a plurality of apertures dispersed in an array along a length and width of said lower heat deflector apparatus to facilitate heat transfer from the portable torch when positioned in said aperture.

20. (New) The apparatus of claim 19, further comprising:

wherein said lower heat deflector assembly further comprises a first extent, a second extent, and a third extent;

said first extent being positioned along a third side of said lower portion, said first extent extending along a length of said lower portion;

said second extent being operationally coupled to said first extent, said second extent extending along a length of said lower portion, said second extent having a top surface defining a plane said second extent being positioned such that said plane has a spaced substantially parallel relationship with a plane defined by said bottom wall; and

said third extent being operationally coupled to said second extent, said third extent extending along a length of said lower portion, said third extent being positioned adjacent to a fourth side of said lower portion opposite said third side of said lower portion;

said first, second, and third extent extending along a width of said lower portion.

21. (New) The apparatus of claim 20, wherein said first extent has an angular relationship to said second extent such that said first extent extends upwardly as said first extent extends away from said second extent, and said third extent has an angular relationship to said second extent such that said third extent extends upwardly as said third extent extends away from said second extent.